

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method for providing a computer user with an accessible electronic
 2 dictionary system, the method comprising:
 3 receiving a data request action for a word appearing in an electronic document;
 4 accessing information regarding context of the word derived from within the
 5 electronic document in which the word appears;
 6 accessing a definition of the word;
 7 storing the definition of the word along with the context information for the word;
 8 and
 9 enabling access by the computer user to the definition and the context
 10 information.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the context information includes at least one
 2 word that is positioned adjacent to the word within the electronic document from which
 3 the context information was retrieved.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling access to a definition
 2 and context information for one or more other words that are related to the word when
 3 enabling access to the definition and context information for the word.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein enabling access to the definition and the
 2 context information for the word includes displaying context information from more than
 3 one electronic document in which the word has appeared.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining a selectable level of
 2 detail for the definition to be retrieved.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 identifying a target community appropriate for the computer user inputting the
 3 data request action; and
 4 selecting the definition to be stored for the word from among more than one
 5 available definition based on the target community identified.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein:
2 identifying the target community includes determining the target community
3 based on identification information for the computer user, and
4 selecting one or more definitions for display based on the target community.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification
2 information based on an Internet Protocol address of the computer user.

1 9. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification
2 information based on a screen name of the computer user.

1 10. The method of claim 7 further comprising determining the identification
2 information based on a user profile of the computer user.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition and the context information for
2 the word is stored in a manner designed to enable mobile access.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the definition and the context information are
2 stored in a manner to enable future use by a computer user other than the computer user
3 responsible for generating the data request action.

1 13. An electronic dictionary comprising:
2 definitions for one or more words identified from within an electronic document
3 that is distinct from the electronic dictionary; and
4 context information for at least one of the words based on information regarding
5 context of the word from within the electronic document.

1 14. The electronic dictionary of claim 13 wherein the context information
2 includes at least one word that is positioned adjacent to the word within the electronic
3 document from which the word was identified.

1 15. The electronic dictionary of claim 13 wherein the electronic dictionary
2 includes definitions and related context information for more than one word identified by
3 a single user.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the single user is defined as a single
2 electronic identity.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the single electronic identity is defined as an
2 Internet Protocol address.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein the single electronic identity is defined as a
2 screen name.

1 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the electronic dictionary includes definitions
2 and related context of information for at least one word identified by each of more than
3 one related identity.

1 20. A method for using an electronic dictionary to retrieve information related to
2 a word appearing in an electronic document, the method comprising:

3 receiving a data request action for a word appearing in an accessed electronic
4 document;

5 accessing at least one definition of the word and context information regarding
6 context of the word derived from within a different electronic document in which the
7 word also appeared; and

8 enabling a display of the definition and the context information.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the different electronic document from
2 which the context information was derived was previously viewed by a party submitting
3 the data request action.

1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the definition includes accessing
2 the definition for more than one word.

1 23. The method of claim 20 wherein enabling the display includes enabling the
2 display of the context information derived from within more than one different electronic
3 document in which the word also appeared.

1 24. The method of claim 20 wherein enabling the display of the context
2 information includes enabling the display of at least one word that is positioned adjacent
3 to the word within the different electronic document in which the context information
4 was derived.

1 25. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the definition and context
2 information includes accessing information stored relative to a single requesting user.

1 26. The method of claim 20 further comprising enabling selection of a level of
2 detail for the context information related to the word to be displayed in response to the
3 data request action.

1 27. The method of claim 20 further comprising:
2 identifying a target community appropriate for a party inputting the data request
3 action; and
4 selecting the definition to be stored for the word from among more than one
5 available definitions based on the target community identified.

1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein selecting among the definitions includes
2 selecting based on a relationship between the target community identified and the context
3 information.

1 29. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing includes retrieving a portion of
2 the definition and the context information for the word from storage.

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein retrieving includes retrieving multiple words
2 and corresponding contexts from storage.

1 31. The method of claim 29 wherein retrieving includes retrieving the definition
2 and the context information from among multiple instances of context information stored
3 for the word in storage.

1 32. The method of claim 20 wherein accessing the context information includes
2 accessing the context information from a device that is distinct from a device generating
3 the data request action.

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